

STATEMENT OF MAURICE HAWKINS

This is an interview being conducted at the Mississippi Highway Patrol Substation in Greenwood, Mississippi. Today's date is November 19, 1998, at 10:30 A. M. Present at this interview is Maurice Hawkins; Jack Matthews, Investigator with the Mississippi Highway Patrol; and Investigator Robert Jennings with the District Attorney's office of Grenada, Mississippi.

JENNINGS: Maurice, Mr. Matthews and I want to talk to you briefly about the video tape and interview that was conducted with you a few months ago by Mr. Lumumba and also, Mr. Freelon, attorneys representing a case that you are a witness in. If you would, just begin at the beginning. What happened of how you were approached by them and what was said to you. If you can remember about what date it was, tell us that.

HAWKINS: My name is Maurice Hawkins. I was approached by Harvey Freelon in Itta Bena in the drug store where he offered me Fifty bucks (\$50) to help me get my medication. I did not have enough money. I talked with him and he asked me to make a statement for him. He said he would set me up in an apartment in Jackson, Mississippi, which he did, and he offered to pay whoever if owed people money and whatever I owed they were going to pay for it. They give me clothing and put me on my feet. Tried to keep me in Jackson, help me find a job or whatever. Then I was approached by a friend of his at his apartment with drugs because he knew I was doing drugs at the time. I am a recovering drug addict. My drug of choice was Crack Cocaine. This guy approached me at the apartment with drugs. Harvey left me money saying I could get me something to eat and I had just ate so he knew what I was going to do with it. He fed me before then at the time, and I smoked drugs after Harvey left with his friends, whoever the guy was, I don't know him. Lumumba came over later and wanted to make a video tape of me which I kind of had a feeling that he knew I was under the influence of drugs at that time. I was told what to say, went over it before for at least an hour and a half of what to say on tape. You know my being under the influence, I wanted more and didn't have any more money, you will do anything. I had to do that, get the tape over with, talked to Lumumba, got some more money and got some more drugs, after that run around in Jackson. So after that, I came back home for a couple of days. They went and bought me a bus ticket to go back. Mr. Freelon wrote my sister, I mean he wrote Mr. Robinson a check out for me, Seventy Five Dollars (\$75) to give my sister which was cashed at Granger's Mini Market in Itta Bena. I went back to Jackson again, stayed in an apartment and they had me at the office, you know, just so I wouldn't get that bored or something and they were looking for me a job. I decided to just come back home. I had to see my probation officer. Lumumba and Irvin Bradley brought me home one night and he gave me Fifty Dollars (\$50) to give to my probation officer and he dropped me off at my sister's house. He knew I was doing drugs. After they got what they wanted, he knew I had to see my probation officer. I decided I was tired of being on drugs. So I decided to call them because I felt like I was tired of doing drugs and needed help cause I needed the money, I said I would get it from them, whatever. So I called and they came and picked me up. I was at (Tony Lee Guess's) house. They called his house and I was supposed to meet him out there at (?) store. They picked me up and took me to Jackson. I was placed that night at the Red Roof Motel in Jackson where Mr. Lumumba paid for me a room. I had moved into a Scottish Inn the

next night. They were still trying to find a treatment center for me. They found one, Victim's (?) Manor in Clinton, Mississippi. They paid for me to get in the treatment center. I went through treatment and after I got out Mr. Lumumba put me on a bus to come back home. They paid \$20 money order on and off used to pay my probation Officer. I got here, but I called Rickey Banks while I was in the treatment center and told him I needed to talk to him about need to talk to Highway Patrol and all about getting this stuff straight. Stop lying about everything. Got my head on straight. I just decided to tell the truth while I am clean and sober, about the whole thing.

MATTHEWS: You were telling me yesterday at the Sheriff's office that you got out of Victim's (?) Manor and that is a treatment center in Clinton, Mississippi?

HAWKINS: Yes, Sir.

MATTHEWS: You got out of there when?

HAWKINS: Tuesday, November 17.

MATTHEWS: You caught a bus home that night?

HAWKINS: Yeah, that day. The bus driver dropped me off at, the bus driver for Clinton, they dropped me off at Lumumba's Office.

MATTHEWS: He paid for your bus ticket to come back home?

HAWKINS: Yeah

MATTHEWS: You came to the Sheriff's office yesterday morning and that is where I contacted you?

HAWKINS: Yes Sir.

MATTHEWS: You agreed to come to this interview today, this morning here at the Highway Patrol Station?

HAWKINS: Yes, Sir.

MATTHEWS: You have not been on any drugs since you got out of the treatment center?

HAWKINS: I have not done drugs in over a month and a half.

JENNINGS: Ok. One of the things in your interview with being video taped there in Jackson, there were some things that you changed in regard to what you had originally had told Sheriff Banks and also, Investigator John Johnson with our office. Let us back up to when you were

incarcerated in a Leflore County Jail. You were charged with what?

HAWKINS: Burglary and Sale of Cocaine.

JENNINGS: At that time you went before the Court and what occurred?

HAWKINS: My lawyer came to me and said if I pled guilty to the burglary charge that they would pass the sale charge to the files. Which they knew I was not a drug dealer, I was only a user.

JENNINGS: Is that what you did?

HAWKINS: Yes.

JENNINGS: You were what?

HAWKINS: I was placed on house arrest because it was two of us that committed the crime, and the other guy, Dedrick Stricklin, went to court a month before I did and they gave him house arrest. That is the way I knew I was going to get house arrest too if I pled guilty to burglary since it was my first felony.

JENNINGS: When that happened you were placed on house arrest. Tell me what happened then.

HAWKINS: After I was placed on house arrest, the probation officer Arthur Smith was taking me down to the probation office, but I asked him if I could speak to Mr. Banks for a minute after I left the courtroom. I talked to him about the situation that occurred in the cell about Flowers and after I told him what he said to me and everything and he told me that he would contact me. When he contacted me about a month later, Investigator John Johnson wanted to talk to me. I told him everything.

JENNINGS: What was it exactly that Curtis Flowers did tell you this particular night in the jail?

HAWKINS: He was telling me how you know....I knew something was on his mind. We was playing solitaire and he said, "Man, I hate I did that." I kind of figured I knew what he was talking about, but he did not know that I knew why he was in there. I played along with it. I said, "What, Man?" He said, "I hate I had to do it, kill my own cousin." I never believed it before, but until he spoke up on it. The first thing that came out of my mouth was I asked, "What did you do with the money?" He said, "It was not about the money. It was something personal." He said just like that. I did not get too deep into it. I did ask him about the gun though. He said it was a 380. Then I started telling him about why I was in there, what I was in there for.

MATTHEWS: This is what you told Sheriff Banks the day you asked your probation officer to

let you talk to him?

HAWKINS: Yes, Sir.

JENNINGS: Sometime shortly after that you were contacted and you came back and you gave a taped statement, an interview with Sheriff Banks and Investigator Johnson about what all had occurred.

HAWKINS: That was then. I had a clear head because I was in jail at the time. I gave the truth and now is the truth. Anytime between that I was on drugs. Whatever Lumumba might have on tape, they know it is not the truth.

JENNINGS: Can you think of anything else that we need to go into? This interview is now concluded. It is 10:42 A. M. November 19, 1998.